

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 18-19, 22-23, 27-32, 40-42, and 44; amend claims 20-21, 33-34, 36-37, 43, and 45-51; and add new claims 53-57, as indicated in the following listing of claims, which replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) The corrugated pipe of claim ~~[[18]]~~24, wherein each section includes opposed male and female ends and the outside pipe diameter of each section between its respective male and female ends is substantially the same.

21. (Currently amended) The corrugated pipe of claim 20, wherein the outside diameter of ~~[[the]]~~each female end is substantially the same as the outside pipe diameter of each section.

22-23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously presented) In a corrugated pipe comprising two sections joined by telescopically mating a male end of one section with a female end of the other section, the improvement comprising:

an annular sealing element fixed to the exterior surface of the male end and disposed to sealingly engage the interior surface of the female end;

an annular band of reinforcing material disposed around the exterior surface of the female end at a position along the longitudinal axis thereof that is in general alignment with the sealing element, the reinforcing material arranged to prevent loss of a sealing engagement between the female end and the sealing element when the female end is subjected to a predetermined level of internal pressure; and

wherein the reinforcing material is not a hose clamp, the annular sealing element is disposed in an annular channel in the outer surface of the male end, the male end includes at least two corrugations comprising at least two axially-spaced, annular crests and valleys therebetween, the two crests defining the outside diameter of the male end, the annular channel being formed in one of the crests, and the male end includes an annular intermediate corrugation defining an outside diameter greater than the outside diameter of the male end, and being disposed to engage the distal end of the female end when fully mated.

25. (Previously presented) In a corrugated pipe comprising two sections joined by telescopically mating a male end of one section with a female end of the other section, the improvement comprising:

an annular sealing element fixed to the exterior surface of the male end and disposed to sealingly engage the interior surface of the female end; and

an annular band of reinforcing material disposed around the exterior surface of the female end at a position along the longitudinal axis thereof that is in general alignment with the sealing element, the reinforcing material structurally configured to prevent loss of sealing engagement between the female end and the sealing element during use of the pipe;

wherein the annular sealing element is disposed in an annular channel in the outer surface of the male end;

wherein the male end includes at least two corrugations comprising at least two axially-spaced, annular crests and valleys therebetween, the two crests defining the outside diameter of the male end, and wherein the annular channel is formed in one of the crests;

wherein the male end includes an annular intermediate corrugation defining an outside diameter greater than the outside diameter of the male end, and being disposed to engage the distal end of the female end when fully mated; and

wherein the outside diameter of the intermediate corrugation is less than the outside pipe diameter.

26-32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently amended) The corrugated pipe of claim ~~[[32]]~~35, wherein the gasket is disposed in an annular channel formed in the corrugation of the male end.

34. (Currently amended) The corrugated pipe of claim ~~[[32]]~~35, wherein the ring is radially aligned with the gasket.
35. (Previously presented) A corrugated pipe comprising:
- a male end having a corrugation;
 - a female end disposed around the male end and capable of expanding to allow fluid flow outside of the male end when the male and female ends are subjected to a predetermined level of internal pressure;
 - a gasket disposed around the corrugation of the male end; and
 - a ring separately disposed around the female end and arranged to maintain a seal between an outer surface of the gasket and an inner surface of the female end when the male and female ends are subjected to the predetermined level of internal pressure;
- wherein the ring is not a hose clamp, the female end includes a first type of material, and the ring includes a second type of material that has a greater structural rigidity than the first type of material of the female end; and
- wherein the female end includes at least one guide for maintaining the ring in radial alignment with the gasket.
36. (Currently amended) The corrugated pipe of claim ~~[[32]]~~35, wherein the ring comprises any one of a single piece of material that does not include any structure for allowing the ring to be unwound or expanded, a coating that

includes a plastic material, or a coating that includes one or more of a fiberglass, carbon, or plastic fiber.

37. (Currently amended) The corrugated pipe of claim ~~[[18]]~~24, wherein the female end is made of a first material, and the annular band of reinforcing material includes a second material that is different from the first material of the female end.

38. (Previously presented) The corrugated pipe of claim 37, wherein the first material is plastic, and the second material includes one or more of a fiberglass, carbon, or plastic fiber.

39. (Previously presented) The corrugated pipe of claim 37, wherein the second material resists deformation greater than the first material.

40-42. (Canceled)

43. (Currently amended) The corrugated pipe of claim ~~[[32]]~~35, wherein the ~~reinforcing material ring~~ includes one or more of a fiberglass portion, a carbon portion, or a plastic fiber portion, and the expandable material of the female end comprises plastic.

44. (Canceled)

45. (Currently amended) The reinforcement of claim ~~[[44]]~~52, wherein a bond is formed between the plastic material of the female end and the plastic material of the reinforcing member.
46. (Currently amended) The reinforcement of claim ~~[[44]]~~52, wherein the reinforcing member comprises a coating.
47. (Currently amended) The ~~reinforcing member~~ reinforcement of claim ~~[[44]]~~52, wherein the reinforcing member resists deformation caused by the predetermined level of interior pressure greater than the plastic material of the female end of the corrugated pipe.
48. (Currently amended) The ~~reinforcing member~~ reinforcement of claim ~~[[44]]~~52, wherein the reinforcing member is coated around an exterior surface of the female end.
49. (Currently amended) The ~~reinforcing member~~ reinforcement of claim ~~[[44]]~~52, wherein the reinforcing member has a width that is greater than a width of the seal between the outer surface of the corrugation of the male end and the inner surface of the female end.

50. (Currently amended) The ~~reinforcing member~~ reinforcement of claim 49, wherein the width of the reinforcing member is not substantially greater than a width of the corrugation of the male end.
51. (Currently amended) The ~~reinforcing member~~ reinforcement of claim ~~[[44]]~~52, wherein the reinforcing member is radially aligned with the seal between the outer surface of the corrugation of the male end and the inner surface of the female end.
52. (Previously presented) A reinforcement for a corrugated pipe connection having a male end with a corrugation, a female end disposed around the male end, and a seal between an outer surface of the corrugation of the male end and an inner surface of the female end, comprising:
- a reinforcing member separately coated around an outer surface of the female end and structurally configured to maintain the seal between the outer surface of the corrugation of the male end and the inner surface of the female end when the pipe is subjected to a predetermined level of interior pressure;
 - wherein the female end comprises a plastic material, and the reinforcing member includes plastic material and one or more of a fiberglass material, a carbon fiber material, or a plastic fiber material; and
 - wherein the female end includes at least one guide for maintaining the reinforcing member in radial alignment with the seal between the outer

surface of the corrugation of the male end and the inner surface of the female end.

53. (New) The corrugated pipe of claim 25, wherein each section includes opposed male and female ends and the outside pipe diameter of each section between its respective male and female ends is substantially the same.
54. (New) The corrugated pipe of claim 53, wherein the outside diameter of each female end is substantially the same as the outside pipe diameter of each section.
55. (New) The corrugated pipe of claim 25, wherein the female end is made of a first material, and the annular band of reinforcing material includes a second material that is different from the first material of the female end.
56. (New) The corrugated pipe of claim 55, wherein the first material is plastic, and the second material includes one or more of a fiberglass, carbon, or plastic fiber.
57. (New) The corrugated pipe of claim 55, wherein the second material resists deformation greater than the first material.